Nuggets of News

GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
gold discovered 1860
recording the past for the future

P.O. Box 26
Gold Hill, Ore. 97525
325 Second Ave.

December 1991

Oral histories are a very important part of preserving history. Descriptions of how people lived would be lost forever with out them. We need members like you to interview someone you know or stop by the society headquarters so we can interview you or call and make arrangements for us to come to you.

The oral history Janet Sessions conducted with Boyce Kellogg in 1987 is wonderful. It gives great insight into life in Gold Hill at the turn of the century. The following profile was put together utilizing Boyce's interview and news accounts of the day.

While doing research we sometimes come across stories that are very interesting. One such story is the life of one of Gold Hill's most prominent citizens, Alvah Elmer Kellogg. His name has been associated with Gold Hill since 1897.

Kellogg was involved in many enterprises and was a man who had numerous occupations. He was well known throughout the Jackson County. As county coroner he traversed Jackson County from Prospect to Ashland, Jacksonville to Lake Creek.

Alvah Elmer Kellogg was born in Hillsboro, Oregon June 5, 1868. He was the oldest son of Edward J. and Margaret Boyce Kellogg. His brothers were Joseph B, Basil, Elbert, and Edward. His sisters were Nell (Mrs. Charles Stacey), Annette (Mrs. John Barneburg) and Bessie (Mrs. Marshall Green).

Both of Alvah's parents had crossed the plains, arriving in Oregon Territory in the mid 1800's, settling in Washington County. The Kelloggs prospered by building and operating steamers on the Columbia River. Edward being the first steam boat captain to run the river. Alvah worked as a cabin boy and purser before attending Portland Business College.

Alvah, Katie,
Boyce & Barney Kellogg

Alvah and his first wife Anna May Green (Alvah's sister Bessie married Anna's brother.) came to the Rogue Valley in 1888. Shortly after their arrival they bought a prune and peach orchard on Coker Butte Road. Alvah and Anna had one son, Merle, who was born in 1891. Their large home burned down and they moved to Sams Valley near the old Pelton place. Kellogg loved the river, being an avid fisherman he moved to Gold Hill in 1897.

It wasn't long when Kellogg proceeded to make his mark on Gold Hill. His first business adventure was the City Dray & Transfer Company.

Tragedy struck the Kellogg

family when Anna died of pneumonia November 26, 1898, she was 26 years of age. Alvah was left alone to care for his young son. Merle who was seven went to live with Alvah's sister, Mrs. John Barneburg, so he could attend school in Medford.

Kellogg had a photographic memory which enabled him to memorize law books. He passed the state bar exam without a conventional education! He could also add five digit numbers in his head as fast as an adding machine.

Kellogg opened a law office on 4th Avenue and continued branching out into other fields. In December of 1898, Kellogg, along with other citizens formed the first official Gold Hill Hook & Ladder Company. He was appointed Deputy District Attorney in 1899.

While living in Gold Hill, Alvah met Katherine (Kate) Parker, the daughter of Curtis and Matilda Carey Parker. When they married January 24, 1900, it was the joining of two pioneer families just as Alvah's parents had done nearly forty years before. (Curtis Parker's parents, Joseph and Sarah arrived in Jacksonville in 1853.) Kate was born between Brownsboro and Butte Falls February 13, 1877. In the mid 1880's, the Parkers moved to a homestead along Kane Creek. Katie attended the old Dardanelles school until she enrolled in the Gold Hill High School. While attending the high school, Kate, her sister Ada, and brother Frank boarded at the J.M. Harrington house.

Alvah and Kate were a great pair, they both kept active in the community. Kate was a charter member of the Rebekah lodge. Kate, being an excellent seamstress helped other women with their sewing. If someone's kids got sick, and there wasn't a doctor around, Kate would get out her doctor book and take care of them.

Alvah and Kate had two sons, Noel "Barney" who was born in 1907. Barney is remembered for landing the largest chinook salmon (68 lbs.) ever caught here. He hooked the fish above the power plant, played it beneath both bridges and down the river eventually landing the large fish near 6th Street.

Joseph Boyce was born on his mother's birthday 1914. The Gold Hill News February 14, 1914 printed the following account;

"Friday the Thirteenth is No Hoodoo, Parents Insist

That Friday the 13th may be anything but an unlucky day is attested by the birth of a ten pound boy to Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Kellogg, at their home in this city late last evening. Nor does the good omen rest at this--in addition to the mystic date, the lusty young gentleman arrived upon his mother's birthday."

The Kelloggs lived up against Nugget Butte at the end of 5th Street until 1927 when they moved to Medford. (The Kellogg house and both of Grandma Matilda Parker's houses are still standing today.)

Kellogg served as city recorder from 1900 to 1901. He was elected to the city council in 1902. Beginning in 1900 he held the following positions; 1900 contractor on city water lines, he held a partnership with William Russell and Ralph Darling in the brick yard at the Dardanelles. By 1901 he was a notary public, real estate agent, collections agent and insurance salesman. He owned a furniture store. He did upholstery, interior decorating and exterior painting. He operated the Valley Lodging house and the Wego Theatre. He was a technical writer for mining journals, and wrote articles for the Oregonian and Journal newspapers. He was also an accountant, assayer, carpenter, embalmer, funeral director, lawyer, miner, secretary of the Commercial Club, Deputy District Attorney and the county coroner from 1910 to 1914!

Let's hope I didn't leave anything out! Whew! what an active life Alvah Kellogg lead, it makes me tired just thinking about doing half of the things he did in his lifetime.

He was quite a man and should be remembered as one of the city's most upstanding citizens.

Boyce, who is the last of this branch of Kelloggs still resides in Medford with his wife Catherine. He had one son, Joseph Boyce Kellogg Jr. who died in 1982.

If you have ever wondered why

the butte across the river from Gold Hill is named Echo Butte I have the answer. Boyce related the following anecdote in his 1987 interview;

"Mother had a great singing voice and could hit that high "C". "When she wanted me she would call BOYYCEEE from our house across the river, the sound would hit the hill and echo back. That's why we called it Echo Hill. There wasn't a place in town she couldn't call me home from."

(C)1991 LMG

Dear Members,

Well the crops are harvested and put in for another year. But as any farmer learns very quick, the work is never done, Just one more step finished.

I want to personally thank each of you for <u>your</u> help in preserving our history this year. Your labors have been noticed by many and your work has been greatly appreciated.

Our museum has been such a good thing to happen to Gold Hill. It's so nice to see a positive structure for this town. I get so tired of telling people I live in Gold Hill and then have to listen to their reaction to our town's reputation.

Now I can proudly say it is so nice to listen to all the positive comments said about our Society and what we have accomplished since our start in 1986.

I'm hoping we will continue to be a good force for Gold Hill for generations to come. So that they too can enjoy this area's history.

I am going to step down at the end of this term and let someone else take over the reins. This work horse needs to go out to pasture for a rest and recuperation. Please come to the meetings and join in. More help is greatly needed. <u>We Need You</u>!

Good Luck to the future Gold Hill Historical Society.

Sincerely
Clare Moore

We received the following letter addressed to the "Nuggets of News";

Gentlemen:

This year my son brought his wife and seven year old daughter to Gold Hill and Sardine Creek. They surprised me with a membership in the Historical Society. The September Nugget of News filled me with memories.

My contact with Gold Hill was through my great grandparents whose house is still standing. Each time that I travel through the area a visit to the cemetery seems a must for many of my relatives are buried there--beginning with my great grandfather, Cyrenus Vroman (misspelled on his tombstone as Sirenus.) When his grandson, Alfred C. Williams, joined the navy in the first World War, he was required to give his full name. Since he did not know how to spell Cyrenus, he wrote Clifford for his middle name. My great grandmother was Ella Vroman. They both lived until after I was married.

In the same plot with their parents are Hattie, whom I do not remember, Pearl Williams who was my grandmother and Betty Johnson, the youngest and last survivor of their eight children. Betty died this past summer just short of her 100th birthday. My mother, Juanita Flanders, is also buried there. My mother was born in 1898 on Sardine Creek to Pearl Vroman Williams and Arthur Williams. Arthur was from Kidderminster, England and was killed in a logging accident as a young man-leaving Pearl with two young children. Each time that I stop I wish there was some way to thank the person responsible for attending to the city.

My great aunt, Nellie Smith, married to Jack Smith, ran a boarding house up on the hill. It was on the first street going across the tracks as you entered Gold Hill from the south. I remember the screened porch and the fragrant sweet pears, but most of all, the cantaloupes that were growing on the hill behind the house. Never have I tasted one as good! For breakfast she would send me out to pick one still in the

shade. My instructions were to not pull it from the vine but to carefully pick it up, cradle it in my hands, and give it a little juggle. If it came off the vine it was ripe. You cannot buy vine-ripened cantaloupe [now]. One farmer recently told me: "Oh! I know what you mean. We give those to the cows."

One time I visited the store at the Vortex on Sardine Creek and mentioned that some of my relatives lived nearby. When I said that their name was Smith the grocer said: "Lady, almost everybody on the Creek is named Smith!" Marjorie Smith's mother made the tastiest chocolate cake that I have ever eaten. She brought it to the gathering at Ashland on July 4, 1928 or 1929.

Other wonderful memories were of visiting the old Vroman house. I especially remember feeding chickens, picking blackberries, swimming in the irrigation ditch, being terrified of a bat in the upstairs bedroom, putting the milk in the pantry to separate the cream, making butter with an old-fashioned churn, washing in an enamel basin on a bench outside the kitchen door, and using the outhouse with real catalogues for toilet paper. One time my grandfather was milking a cow that became a bit restless and inadvertently put her foot in the bucket of milk. Grandpa told me to take it in and ask grandma to strain it! Such disdain I never had seen! I do believe that she put it out for the kittens.

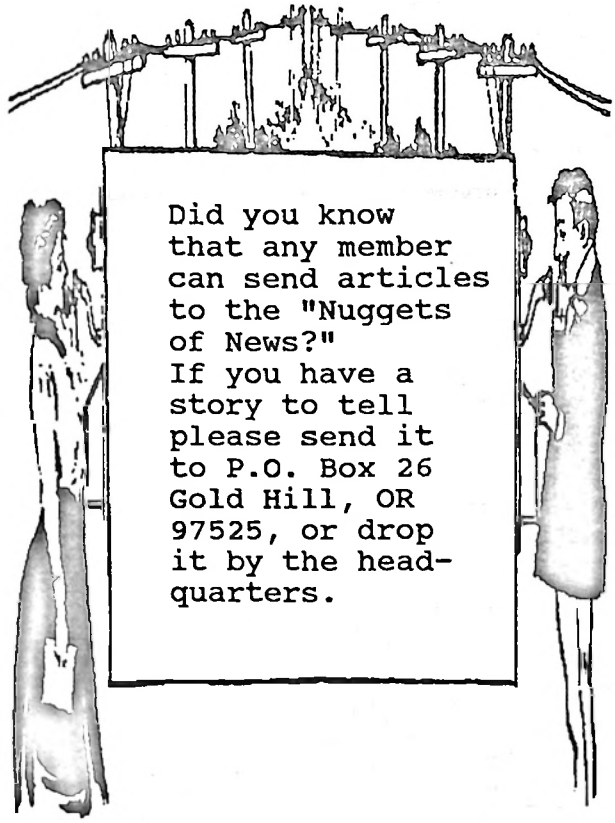
Every trip between Hollywood, where I lived with my mother, and Portland, where I spent some summers with my father, included a stop to see the Vromans. One such time when I might have been twelve, I walked from the Vroman house to Aunt Nellie's place. There was a shop to buy ice cream and a card room with a big porch where the men gathered to play rummy. This day several older men were on the porch. I was well ahead of grandpa and overheard, "Here comes that stingy S.O.B. Vroman now." As I remember grandpa, almost every other word was a swear word, so it seems reasonable that his buddies talked that way too.

I will never forget the town Christmas party that we all attended. It was upstairs in a building on the north east corner of that first intersection. There was a beautiful tree, lots of decorations, a table full of food, and Santa Claus. Especially memorable for me was my very tiny great grandmother being called upon to recite a poem. She told me that it was her manner of elocution that made her in such demand. There was such inflection in her voice and so much emphasis. I wish that I knew that poem she recited. The hand clapping was thunderous and my heart was filled with pride.

Thank you for helping me recall these good times from my earlier years. Gold Hill will always represent a haven for me. I wish that I could have one of grandma's sugar cookies right now.

Sincerely,
Lillian Hahn Jensen

P.S. If any relatives care to write, please give them my address. Lillian's address is 1401 Oakmont Drive # 4, Walnut Creek, CA 94595


Did you know that any member can send articles to the "Nuggets of News?"
If you have a story to tell please send it to P.O. Box 26 Gold Hill, OR 97525, or drop it by the head-quarters.

Mark E. Campbell also wrote a letter the Society. He says. "I enjoyed seeing my Sardine Creek article in the September "Nuggets of News", and I think the cartoon illustration were well done and appropriate. Please compliment the artist for me. (I presume it was Linda Genaw.) Also, I think you selected a good photo for the first page - one that Ted took."

He goes on to say, "Small world department: A neighbor on my block has been spending vacations in Gold Hill for years. And the man who mows my lawn recently visited his family near the town of Rogue River."

Mark is hoping that he and Ted Wharton can get together and collaborate on more stories of the past. He wants us to keep on him.

I hear Ted will be visiting Mark in the near future. Let's hope he brings back an adventurous tale for us.

THANKS TO YOU

A special thank you to the supporters of the society during the 1991 year;

MONETARY DONATIONS

Ken Nichols, Cindy Faubion, M.Ruth Harmon, Ogden and Marjorie Kellogg, Mrs. Apostal, Richard and Melinda Haldeman, Kirk & Teddie Matteson, and Les & Peggy Harper

IN KIND GOODS AND SERVICES

Don & Clare Moore, Ken & Winona Nichols, Marge Martin, Reg & Linda Genaw, Gary and Ken Martin and Susan Clarke

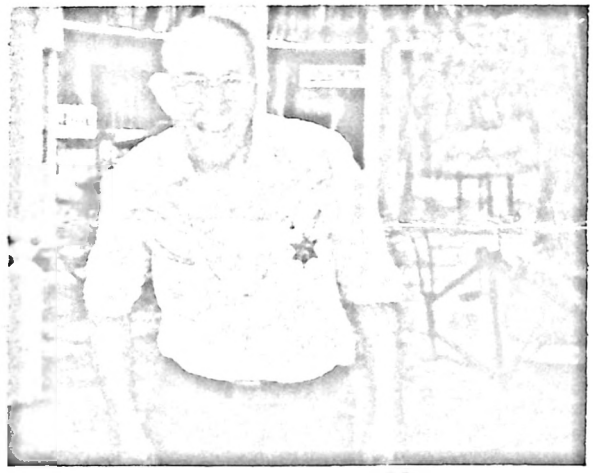
PAST! LIFE IS GREAT AT 80

I have good news for you. The first 80 years are the hardest. The second 80 are a succession of birthday parties. Once you reach 80, everyone wants to carry your baggage and help you up the steps. If you forget your name or somebody else's name, or an appointment, or your own telephone number, or promise to be three places at the same time, or can't remember how many grandchildren you have, you need only explain that you are 80.

Being 80 is a lot better than being 70. At 70 people are mad at you for everything. At 80 you have a perfect excuse no matter what you do. If you act foolish, its your second childhood. Everybody is looking for symptoms of softening of the brain. Being 70 is no fun at all. At that age they expect you to retire to a house in Florida and complain about your arthritis (they use to call it lumbago), and ask everybody to stop mumbling because you can't understand them (actually your hearing is about 50% gone). If you survive until you are 80, everybody is surprised that you are still alive. They treat you with respect just for having lived so long. Actually they seem surprised that you can walk and talk sensibly.

So PLEASE, folks try to make it to 80. It's the best time of life. People forgive you for everything.

If you ask me, life begins at 80. Submitted by Inez Anderson



LaRue Morris

Dec. 8,1912 to Oct. 27,1991

In his extraordinary lifetime, LaRue Morris accomplished many things. In his youth, he was an all-state football athlete and in 1933 he became the Chicago World's Fair heavyweight boxing champion.

Later, he worked as a tracer in a factory, a diesel engine instructor

for steam locomotive engineers, a millwright, a miner, a rancher, a school teacher and he was co-founder of Gold Gulch mining town, where he spent untold hours collecting, preserving and finally sharing history with thousands of visitors.

For many years he volunteered his time to help area children. He was a football and wrestling coach at Scenic Junior High School, a boxing instructor at the Medford YMCA and among other things he was Santa Claus for his Central Point church.

Anyone who got to know LaRue, would soon find out what a true friend and giving person he was. LaRue was a gentleman in every sense of the word. But perhaps more than anything else, he was an example to young people of what they could accomplish in their lives if they really gave it their all.

His warm smiles and wonderful stories will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to call him friend.

Cindy Faubion

In memory of LaRue, our society will present Scenic Middle School with a plaque. It will be put on permanent display in the trophy case at the school. The plaque will include the following verse that LaRue always carried with him and lived by.

"I shall pass through this world but once any good therefore, that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again."

Good-bye dear friend

Patrick Happenings

Mrs. Brook's fifth grade class at Patrick School recently completed the study of Jamestown Colony.

The finale was baking bread and making butter as they did in colonial days.

Alyce Bottleson, Marge Martin and Mary Bradish attended this exciting event. Alyce explained the working of our old butter churn and answered questions from the students. The class used Marge Martin and Linda Babb's churns and with the help of Marge and Alyce the butter turned out great!

Alyce and Marge assisted the 32 pupils with the bread showing how to mix the ingredients and kneading. Chris Smurzynski, the student teacher, who is Mary's granddaughter, can not thank Alyce and Marge enough for their wonderful help. She said she could not have gotten through the morning without them.

Incidentally, the bread and butter turned out great.

Mary Bradish

Photograph Department

In the August 1990 newsletter I reported that I would be busy getting our photo collection in order. Would you believe 16 months later it is completely up to date! Many hours were spent copying photographs, cataloging them and numbering negatives.

Several of our members and residents have been kind enough to let us copy their photographs. The latest count is 954.

We have a photo log book that is filled in when we take a picture. It includes the negative number, the subject photographed, the accession number and the donors name. From this list the 3 1/2" X 5" print is mounted on an index card with the donor name, accession number, negative number, description, size and condition of original. It also indicates whether it is a copy negative only or if we have the original picture, who took the picture and when it was copied.

There is room on the back of the

card so we can write the location of the original. This happens to be the same way we make donor cards for items we receive. We take photographs of items that are donated and mount them on the donor cards. It is an easy way for things to keep from getting misplaced. Having a picture of an item helps us identify it quickly. There is quite a bit of paper work involved in the collection process as you can see.

Now that the system has been established, it will be easy to keep it up to date.

Thank you for all of your support while I was doing this project. It feels wonderful to have it behind me.

Our darkroom is set up and ready to go. If you would be interested in purchasing copies of any of our photographs stop by the office, order blanks are available. 5" X 7" are $4.00 and 8" X 10" are $6.00.

Linda Genaw, Photography Chairman

Are you interested in helping us build our collection? The following areas are what we intend to focus on. Use them as a guideline when accepting items for the Gold Hill Historical Society.

GOLD	LOGGING
SAWMILLS	RAILROAD
PEOPLE	SCHOOLS
RECREATION	LIME
CEMENT PLANT	FRUIT
RIVER	FARMING

There are many ways that you can help the society even if you are not an officer. Some of them include being a host at the museum, collecting oral histories and helping at rummage and bake sales. We could also use help in the darkroom, recording accessions, collecting pictures of the area and our historic homes. People are needed to clean the Rock Point cemetery and Dardanelles marker. As before mentioned, you can also write articles for the "Nuggets of News."

This work is enjoyable and rewarding. Don't be bashful, we are all volunteers! We will show you what needs to be done.

With the need of a number of different forms when we catalog donated items, we realized there was a great need for a copy machine. We have made an important investment that will help our society in our preservation efforts. With the help and advice from Southern Oregon Historical Society, we have leased a copy machine. It is unbelievable how many copies we have made in the short time that we have had the copy machine. Time has also been saved by our volunteers who do not have to drive to town for copies!

This is the first newsletter to be printed on the new Sharp copier! This is a big expense, but in the long run it will pay for itself. We will be offering copies to the public for a small fee.

Our headquarters is now equipped with new fire extinguisher and a telephone. The new number is 855-1182.

John Fleming visited our museum and showed us pictures of his father, Silas Fleming, with his team of horses, Ted and Blaze. Silas and his team were instrumental in the construction of the Cement Plant.

John entertained Winnie Nichols, Dorothy Edler, Lester Foley and Mary Bradish with his anecdotes of his boyhood days in Gold Hill.

Thanks, John, for loaning us your pictures to copy.

Visit us again real soon and bring your wife, Margaret, and your sister Lottie Frost with you.

Mary Bradish

The following people's names were placed in nomination for officers at our November meeting. Tom Cushman and Ted Wharton, Marge Martin, and Winona Nichols. There is still time to submit names for officers. Elections will be held at the January meeting. Please make a

point to come to the December 16, 1991 meeting at the headquarters, 7:00pm. We are going to have some fun!

We will again be sharing personal heirlooms, so bring something that is special to you and share it with us. If you would like, bring a guest or two.

As a special treat, Delos and Pearl Walker will be there to entertain us by playing their Edison phonograph. The phonograph has been on loan to our society for a couple of months. This early model has the morning glory horn and plays cylinders records.

Refreshments will be a provided for your added enjoyment.

We need to thank the following people for donating items and photographs during 1991; Linda Genaw Gloria Ray, Ken & Winona Nichols, Hanby, Margaret Rackley, Phyliss Newell, Al & Bonnie Mercer, Louise Klumph, Ruth Vergiels, Eileen Shorb Lentz, Ruth Thompson, Bob McDonald, Winona Nichols, Lee & Edith Malone, Arlene Anderson, Susan Clarke, Delos & Pearl Walker, Ray Ritter, M. Ruth Harmon, John Fleming, Melvin Lewis, Linda J. Babb, Ted Wharton and John Stover

Since July 1, 1991, we have earned nearly $1800.00! The money we have received has come from the sale of bricks, (fancy needle point, gold and plain) cookbooks, newsletters publications, and calendars. The rest came from memberships, rummage sales, and donations. We also have a variety of needlepoint items made and donated by Winona Nichols available. These smaller items would make great stocking stuffers. If you are thinking of Christmas shopping, we have our 1992 calendar and several books available too.

Dues for the year 1992 are due January 1st. They are <u>still</u> $5.00 per family membership. If you would like a membership and calendar, send $10.00 plus $1.50 postage to P.O. Box 26, Gold Hill, OR 97525.

If you or a friend would like to help preserve the rich history of Gold Hill and the surrounding area, receive the Gold Hill Historical Society newsletter and other fun stuff, complete the form below, send the proper remittance to:

Gold Hill Historical Society
P.O. Box 26
Gold Hill, Oregon 97525

NAME_____PHONENo._____

MAILINGADDRESS_____

_____

Member of Oregon Historical Society ___YES___NO
No. of Members_____

		Amount Paid
Membership	$5.00	_____
Calendar	$5.00	_____
Postage	$1.50	_____
Total Paid		_____